

began with a bipartisan appeal. Unfortunately, it has gone largely unanswered. Unlike the Senate, where an idea that began here in the House, was approved last week as the McCain-Feingold-Lieberman amendment, the House Republican leadership has steadfastly opposed reform.

Finally, last week, they promised a vote on this vital reform issue during this month. This morning we have a way to assure that promise is fulfilled through the signing of this discharge petition. I call on my colleagues, both Democratic and Republican, to join with us on the petition to guarantee that we get at least a little campaign finance reform in time for this year's election.

The developments since last week have not been all that promising. One Republican says their bill may exempt this year's election. Another says that TOM DELAY, who has been so involved in promoting these organizations is a principal advisor in drafting the reforms. Let us clean up this mess now. It can be done. It must be done. We can yet achieve a bipartisan victory on campaign finance reform, just as the Senate has done, by signing this discharge petition and having a full debate concerning reform this very month.

DISCHARGING ALL OF OUR MILITARY SECRETS

(Mr. HAYWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, let me assure this House and the American people that there will be full disclosure, and it will not be limited to 527 organizations. No, we will turn to those on a bipartisan basis, I might add, who willfully reach into the pockets and paychecks of union members, and we will make sure that real reform takes place.

Mr. Speaker, for purposes of full disclosure, we should point out another discharge petition, not on the floor of this House as apparently been put in motion, the effort by the Clinton-Gore administration to discharge all of our military secrets to foreign powers, the latest revelation, our most sensitive nuclear secrets of Los Alamos. By the way, they were swiped 4 days before the fire, Mr. Speaker, and of course, Bernard Schwartz, the largest contributor to the Democrat National Committee and his firm, Loral Aerospace, giving nuclear technology to the Communist Chinese. Oh, yes, my colleagues, the discharge has started, the discharge of our military secrets.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM LEGISLATION

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WOOLSEY. Our constituents have every right to know exactly who

is financing political campaign. That is why we must pass campaign finance reform. We must do it now, and this reform must require that all contributors and expenditures, including nonprofits, are disclosed.

Currently, many expenditures are protected from disclosure under section 527 of the Tax Code. We hear from the Republicans that they favor reforming the Tax Code. Well, I suggest a perfect place to start is with 527 disclosure. With that start, we will restore faith in government. We will give our children a system that they will want to participate in. The American people want campaign finance reform.

I urge my colleagues to sign the 527 discharge petition today. Our children are counting on us.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

(Mr. WELDON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, in this Chamber we will soon be discussing the very important issue of prescription drug coverage for America's senior citizens. I am pleased that the House leadership has developed a bipartisan plan that will provide American seniors with comprehensive prescription drug coverage.

No senior should have to choose between food for their table or their prescription drugs. As a physician, myself, I know the importance of these drugs to the health of our seniors. Many of these drugs cost a lot of money. It takes years to develop them, sometimes even decades; and then after they are approved by the FDA, it can take months to promote them amongst physicians for their proper use.

Unfortunately, today while many excellent prescription drugs for arthritis, stroke prevention and high blood pressure are critical to the health of seniors, many of them cannot afford them. Our bipartisan plan will ensure that voluntary, affordable and comprehensive prescription drug coverage is available to all seniors. I encourage all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

REJECT REPUBLICAN EDUCATION COSTS

(Mr. ETHERIDGE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on this House to reject the Republican leadership's bill to cut education to pay for a massive tax cut. This Congress must invest in our schools so that students get individual attention, discipline and quality instruction so they can learn the skills that they need to succeed in the new economy.

But the Republican bill would cut \$2.9 billion from next year's education

budget. It does not provide one plug nickel to repair crumbling schools or to build new schools to get our children out of trailers.

No school can provide adequate education if children are subject to substandard facilities.

Mr. Speaker, budget choices are about values. Do we not value investment in our Nation's future by providing our children unless we give them the best education they can have in this world? Or do we take this opportunity to fritter away the future by acting like drunk sailors with the Republicans' massive irresponsible tax scheme?

I support responsible tax relief for middle-class families, but we must not raid the Treasury and jeopardize our ability to make investments in our children and in our future.

SUPPORT THE BIPARTISAN PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT

(Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, no American should be forced to choose between the food they need to live and the medicine they need to stay healthy. Yet that is the choice many of our senior citizens face each day.

Republicans are doing something about this. Working with our Democrat friends, we are proposing a bipartisan prescription drug plan that offers seniors the coverage they need.

Our bipartisan plan strengthens Medicare and provides prescription drug coverage for all seniors and disabled Americans, including those in rural areas like Pauls Valley, Altus, Walters, Waurika and Purcell, Oklahoma.

Our plan is voluntary. It is also affordable and available to all, no matter where you live, no matter what your income.

I urge my colleagues to work with us to make this prescription drug plan a reality so our seniors never again have to choose between buying food and buying medicine.

CHALLENGE TO SECRETARY SHALALA

(Mr. HALL of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to respectfully challenge Secretary Donna Shalala.

Madam Secretary, there is something sad out there that I would like you to see. At the National Nutrition Summit, you said: "Except for a few isolated pockets, we have succeeded at ending hunger in America." That is not true.

According to dozens of American organizations, fighting on poverty's front lines, according to respected international organizations, like the WHO and UNICEF, according to what I have